REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. Claims 5 and 14 were previously cancelled.

In the Office Action of June 15, 2005, Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-18 were rejected. With this Amendment, no claims were added, cancelled or amended.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650) and further in view of Takezawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,265). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to an information management method comprising generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus. The first apparatus is adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique and refer to the first management data stored in a first management area. The method also comprises the step of arranging the protection information in the first management data area as one of said first management data. The method further comprises protecting the storage area of the medium storing said second string of codes from any recording, editing and erasing operations of said first apparatus, while allowing reproducing operations of said first apparatus, on the basis of said protection information when the medium storing said

second string of codes is operated by said first apparatus. The protection information indicates that the protection mode of the track on the medium is prohibited from rewriting.

Garcia, et al. is directed to a method and apparatus for making a single CD-ROM disc useable on computers having unrelated operating systems or for multi-media platforms. (See Abstract). "In essence, the present invention performs modification to the CD-ROM image hard disk directory on disk 21 correcting problems which are not properly handled by the software 19 used by compact disc pressers to create CD-ROM masters." (See Col. 3, lines 30-35). Data and programs which are desired to be pressed onto the CD-ROM disk are stored in their native file formats. (See Col. 1, lines 66-68). Both PC files and Macintosh files are transferred to an MS-DOS formatted Bernoulli cartridge, prior to pressing. (See Col. 2, lines 3-5). However, Macintosh HFS files which are physically one file may be comprised of a data fork and a resource fork, which must be copied to an MS-DOS partition, by the software, as two distinct files to maintain the file integrity. (See Col. 2, lines 4-25). At the time of pre-mastering, the two files, data and resource, must be placed in the same directory (folder) level. (See Col. 3, lines 43-45). To resolve the conflicting names, each file, in the disk directory, is renamed to reflect its type, resource or data, by referencing a RENAMER file. (See Col. 3, line 50 - Col. 4, line 6 and Col. 2, lines 46-49).

Garcia, et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium, because the RENAMER file does not provide protection for the Bernoulli cartridge. Rather, in Garcia, files are moved with the AUTOMATICALLY REPLACE EXISTING FILES switch, of the off-the-shelf program used, set to NO to verify no files are overwritten. (See Col. 4, lines 16-21). Further, Garcia does not disclose or suggest

protecting the storage area of the medium storing said second string of codes. By contrast, in Garcia, the program opens the RENAMER file, as discussed above, which is then read and processed. (See Col. 5, lines 13-15). A file ISO.DOS is processed by looking for a file name that matches one of the file names contained in the RENAMER file. When a match is found, the ISO name is inserted over the DOS name. (See Col. 5, lines 17-20). An ISO.ISO file is then rewritten back to the CD-ROM image hard disk 21 so that it overwrites the data originally used to make the ISO.DOS.

Based on the foregoing, the claimed subject matter is not obvious in light of Garcia, et al. Therefore, the other references need not be considered and the rejection should be withdrawn. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4 and 6-9, which depend from claim 1, and claims 10-13 and 14-18 are allowable over Garcia, et al.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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